

What About Those Who've Never Heard?

Selected Scripture
"Hot Potato Issues", Part 3
Pastor Vince DiPaola

I) THAT TROUBLING QUESTION: IS GOD'S PLAYING FIELD FAIR?

3 Ways People Try To Answer The Question

1) The "universalism" rationalization: _____EVERYBODY_____ goes to heaven eventually.

*Problem: That means that _____JESUS DIED UNNECESSARILY_____. (John 3:16-18)

2) The "wider hope" speculation: If you are _____TRUE TO ANY BELIEFS_____ you will go to heaven.

*Problem: That means that _____JESUS WAS A LIAR_____. (John 14:6)

3) The "obligation of God" concept: If you _____RESPOND TO GOD'S TRUTH_____ He will send more truth to help you believe in Christ and go to heaven.

*Proof passages: John 3:19-21

Psalm 50:23

Romans 1:16-24

II) A CALMING ANSWER: GOD IS JUST AND EVERYONE HAS HOPE!

3 Stages That God Offers All People To Trust In The Good News Of Christ

(Romans 1:16-24a)

Stage 1) God, in a general sense, is known and available to _____EVERYBODY_____. (v. 18-20)

*Yet, that's not enough because _____GOD'S CHARACTER ISN'T FULLY KNOWN_____.

Stage 2) God, in a gracious way, waits for people's _____RESPONSE_____ to His existence. (v. 21-23)

*No response: God is no longer obligated _____TO PROVIDE MORE INFO_____. (Rom.1:24a,26a,28a,32)

*A response: God will provide additional _____"SPECIAL REVELATION" OF CHRIST_____.

Stage 3) God, with care, commits to provide _____THE MESSAGE_____ of life in Christ. (v.16-17, Acts 10)

* We need to participate by: a) _____SHARING_____ the message with others. (Romans 10:14)

b) _____SUPPORTING_____ the message being sent by others. (Romans 10:15)

c) _____BRINGING_____ people to church & help them understand. (Rom.10:17)